

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An alkaline glass comprising: Alkaline glasses with a modified glass surface comprising characterized in that the chemism thereof within the surface has an aluminum concentration which is markedly increased in relation to the aluminum concentration of the volume of the glass.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A process for the production of alkaline glasses with a modified glass surface, the process comprising the steps of: characterized bringing in that the surface of said glasses is brought into contact with elevated levels of aluminum concentration; and subjected subjecting the surface of said glasses to a heat treatment.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The process of A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein said elevated levels of aluminum concentration comprises characterized in that the surface of said glasses is brought into contact with alum ($K Al (SO_4)_2 \times 12 H_2O$) and/or $AlCl_3$ with and without water of crystallization and subjected to heat treatment.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The process of A process as set forth in claim 2 and claim 3 characterized in that, wherein aluminum compounds in soluble form are applied to the surface of said glasses by dipping or spraying prior to the step of subjecting the glasses and then subjected to heat treatment.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the elevated levels of aluminum concentration comprise A process as set forth in claims 2 through 4 characterized in that the aluminum compounds used correspond to an amount of at least $0.1 g/m^2$ of glass surface area; and

wherein and the glass surface is then heated into the region of the transformation temperature of the glass ± 150 K.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The process of A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein characterized in that the surface of said glasses is brought into contact with aluminum chloride compounds from the vapor phase for between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The process of A process as set forth in claim 2 and claim 6 characterized in that, wherein the aluminum chloride compounds used correspond to an amount of at least 0.1 g/m³ of contacting volume and the lower sample temperature of the glass surface is limited by the temperature change resistance of the glass and the upper sample temperature of the glass surface is up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The process of A process as set forth in claim 2 and claim 6 characterized in that, wherein the temperature of the aluminum chloride compounds is between the sublimation temperature of 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The process of A process as set forth in claim 2 and claim 6 characterized in that, wherin the process is used in tube glass production the inner blowing pressure is implemented by means of a gaseous phase inclusive of the aluminum chloride compounds and said gaseous phase aluminum chloride compound is urged through a the tube similarly to the air in the Vello or Danner process.

Claim 10 (new) A process for modifying the surface of an alkaline glass comprising the steps of:
bringing the surface of the alkaline glass into contact with an aluminum compound in solution or vapor form; and
subjecting the surface of the glass to a heat treatment.

Claim 11 (new) The process of claim 10, wherein the aluminum compound comprises (K Al (SO₄)₂ x 12 H₂O) and/or AlCl₃.

Claim 12 (new) The process of claim 10 wherein the step of bringing the surface of the alkaline glass into contact with an aluminum compound in solution or vapor form is accomplished by spraying a solution comprising an aluminum compound on the surface of the alkaline glass or dipping the alkaline glass in a solution comprising an aluminum compound.

Claim 13 (new) The process of claim 12, wherein the application of aluminum compound on the surface of the alkaline glass is accomplished in an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^2 of glass surface area.

Claim 14 (new) The process of claim 10, wherein the surface of the alkaline glass is brought into contact with an aluminum chloride vapor for between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 15 (new) The process of claim 14, wherein the application of aluminum compound on the surface of the alkaline glass is accomplished in an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^3 of contacting volume.

Claim 16 (new) The process of claim 15, wherein the temperature of the aluminum chloride compounds is between 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.